British domination" a great part of the time, have from this evidence done more, vastly more indeed, in proportion to their whole numbers than was done by the two most powerful, unanimous and wealthy states of New England. But this report is not to be relied upon, and when I say this, it is not my intention to impeach the integrity of the commissioners who made it, nor to cast any reflection upon any one of the creditor states, touching the manner of keeping, or exhibiting their accounts. But I mean to say, that the manner in which North Carolina kept her accounts and performed her services, was such that it was impossible that justice could have been done her in the settlement.

In the early stages of the revolution, it never occurred to the legislature of that state that they would be indemnified for any services but such as were done by the immediate order of the general government. Of course all the services performed for her immediate defence, such as expeditions against the savages, and there was several campaigns carried into the Indian country, and a continual line kept up on the frontier for protection against savage depredations the whole war, together with a number of volunteer services, to the aid of South Carolina and Georgia, against their internal and external enemies, with the perpetual services necessarily performed, for the subjection of our own disaffected citizens. These services were sometimes volunteer, sometimes by draft, and sometimes it was made the duty of a given number to hire, cloath, and equip a soldier. This was done under a general sense of duty, without any expectation of private or public remuneration, other than the hope of an eventual freedom. What ground of hope existed? The paper money of every description had sunk to nothing, and the state had no fund to authorise even a hope for redemption, all was gone, and nothing remained but the most disinterested and vigorous exertion to secure the main object. And towards the close of the war, the only place of safety was in the camp, a constant unregistered service. Under these circumstances, can it be possible that we had justice in the settlement, having no documents to be produced to the board, could we obtain a credit? The thing was impossible —but the services, nevertheless, were performed, for which, if we could have obtained a credit, would have placed us in a different position. There is one other case noticed by my colleague, (Mr. Blackledge) of services actually performed in the continental department that we had no credit for, owing to a fraud having been committed by the board for settling the army accounts. The legislature thought proper to set aside and nullify the whole of their proceedings and previous to their being again liquidated and settled, these accounts were barred by the act of Congress. The extent thus barred I am not advised of, but they were considerable.

I will now submit this case to the gentleman from Pennsylvania, (Mr. Gregg) (who differed widely from his venerable colleague) whether under all the above circumstances, and many more that might be cited, North Carolina had justice done her in the settlement? Or whether it was possible for her to bring forward to the board the vouchers and evidence of the services that she performed in the revolutionary war. It appears to me, Sir, that upon this view of the case, that every impartial, honest, and candid mind, will be ready to conclude that the thing was impossible. And also, let honest candor examine the statement made by my friend from Delaware, (Mr. Rodney) and I think that the conclusion will most inevitably be, that the state of Delaware has not a fair settlement, and that it was impossible that she can be in arrears near one million of dollars.

These are the impressions that an impartial examination of this case hath produced on my mind and I am led to believe that many gentlemen representing the creditor states and even by-standers are obliged to coincide in the same general sentiment, to wit: that justice has not been done, and that justice could not be done in the settlement of the state balances—and as the gentlemen from the creditor states have at all times reprobated a revision of this settlement, and as the debtor states from a conviction of the injustice of the demand will not voluntarily pay it, and as there has been no means pointed out to compel the payment why will you keep it up. But gentlemen say that they are not asking payment at this time. Why if it is just not ask it now, why has the demand been so long delayed? A just demand gains nothing by delay, why disguise this business, would it not comport more with the dignity of this House and with the honor of the creditor states to come out at once and say in plain unequivocal language what they intended to do? Is it kept over us as a rod, to tantalise or to keep us in the back ground? gentlemen will not avow this—Then for what other purpose? to this no explanation can be had. All is left to conjecture—and may we not suspect that there is a laying in wait to obtain power to demand, to inforce this measure—I hope this is not the case, but the holding it up attaches suspicion that if groundless ought to be done away by a removal of the cause of it. I am further of an opinion that it was the intention of the old congress and of the congress under the present government who passed the act of 1790 never to call upon those states who should be reported against for the balances and that all that was contemplated was to admit the creditor states to fund the excess—This has been done——and I am strongly impressed with a belief that nothing more was intended. If any thing more was intended it is reasonable to suppose that it would have been expressed either on the resolves of the old Congress or in the act authorising the commissioners to make the settlement. A mode would have been pointed out as to the manner, time, or to whom the payments were to be made. But not a syllable is expressed on that subject. And as to the creditor states it is to be remarked that they are not intituled to all the privileges attached to common creditors, they are limited in the act that admits them to fund, they are not admitted to transfer their balances so funded from which it may be infered that it was a thing of compromise, that it was so understood that creditors should not transfer and that the debtors were not to be called upon, that they were to be considered nominal but not real debtors, and this for the purpose of raising and augmenting the funded stock. For by adverting to the proceedings of those times assuming and funding was the system, it was the common order of the day. But if it had been understood that under the legal operation of the act of 1790, that the states reported as debtor states were to be liable, the act would not have passed, a measure so dangerous would not have obtained. And from the conduct and expressions of one of the commissioners at a subsequent session of congress this opinion was also entertained by the commissioners themselves. For this commissioner although he insisted that it was a just settlement yet he advocated the extinguishment of these balances—Under all these circumstances I most sincerely hope that gentlemen will feel themselves at liberty to expunge from your record this demand by voting for the resolution on your table.

District of Columbia Washington County, to wit:

Orphans Court, 14th February, 1804.

JAMES M'LAUGHLIN having applied for letters of administration with the will annexed on the personal estate of Laurence Connelly late of the United States frigate New York, seaman, deceased. Ordered, that he give notice of his said application by inserting copy a of this order, once a week, for three successive weeks, in Smith's National Intelligencer.

Test. JOHN HEWITT, Reg.

Feb. 20—w3t

By the PRESIDENT *of the United States*

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS by the first articles of the terms and conditions declared by the President of the United States on the seventeenth day of October, 1791, for regulating the Materials and manner of buildings and improvements on the lots in the city of Washington, it is provided that "the outer and party walls of all houses in the said city shall be built of brick or stone," and by the third article of the same terms and conditions it is declared, "that the wall of no house shall be higher than 40 feet to the roof, in any part of the city, nor shall any be lower than 35 feet on any of the Avenues:

AND WHEREAS the above recited articles were found to impede the settlement in the city of mechanics and others whose circumstances did not admit of erecting houses authorised by the said regulations, for which cause the operation of the said articles, has been suspended by several acts of the President of the United States from the fifth day of June 1796, to the first day of January 1804, and the beneficial effects arising from such suspensions having been experienced—it is deemed proper to revive the same, with the exception hereafter mentioned.

Wherefore, I *THOMAS JEFFERSON*, President of the United States, do declare that the first and third articles above recited shall be, and the same are hereby suspended until the first day of January in the year one thousand eight hundred and five, and that all Houses which shall be erected in the said city of Washington previous to the said first day of January, in the year one thousand eight hundred and five, conformable in other respects to the regulations aforesaid shall be considered as lawfully erected, except that no wooden house covering more than 320 square feet, or higher than twelve feet from the Sill to the Eve shall be erected—nor shall such house be placed within 24 feet of any brick or stone house.

GIVEN under my hand, 28th December, 1803.

TH: JEFFERSON.

WASHINGTON CITY

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20.

WE have imposed upon us the painful duty of announcing the mournful intelligence of the death of JOSEPH PRIESTLEY, the favorite of science, the advocate of civil and religious liberty, the ornament of the land in which he lived, and the pride of the age, from which he received, and on which he reflected glory. As in the life of such a man the world was interested, so nothing short of the tributary regrets of a universe can duly commemorate such departed greatness. For one, the Editor of this paper challenges from those who occupy the sphere of its circulation the solemn admiration merited by him whose carreer of terrestrial glory has drawn to a close without having been tarnished by the minutest reproach. It were vain to attempt, in this necessarily concise notice, to delineate a character so fertile of intellectual powers as that of PRIESTLEY. Few of the subjects, in which mankind are the most interested, escaped the pen of a writer, the philanthropy of whose heart never slept. There was scarcely a department of natural science not improved or enlightened by his research and the creative power of his genius; and politics and theology, in their widest range, seemed almost too limited for faculties at once patient and profound. His associates in science will seize the occasion to manifest that, whatever insensibility to merit may sometimes unfortunately attach to the political world, the warmest gratitude invariably embalms the memory of those who have eminently distinguished themselves in the walks of philosophy. To the American Philosophical Society, whose annals are brightened by his labors, we look for the memorial of his greatness.

In consequence of the advertisment, inserted in the National Intelligencer, offering a reward of one hundred dollars for the detection of what was therein considered as the forgery of a letter purporting to be written by a member of Congress, an article has since appeared in the Washington Federalist, the writer of which declares the letter to have been written by a member of Congress, tho' somewhat different from that published, & that it was not intended for publication. We are happy to recognise this apology as far as it goes; but as responsibility is a very valuable feature in the charcter of a representative of the people, we cannot but suggest to the writer the propriety of giving his name to the public, that they may be enabled to appreciate the patriotism that charges his own government with the intention of embroiling our country in a war with Great Britain, while diligently employed in devising the best means of averting it in future, so far as the unjust impressment of American seamen may produce hostile feelings between the two governments.

The Senate have passed the Salary bill—Yeas 20—Nays 7. The signature of the President only is required to make this bill a law.

The Amendment to the Constitution has been agreed to in the Senate of *New York* without a division. It has also been agreed to in committee of the whole of the House of Representatives—Ayes 79—Noes 14.

A London paper of Jan. 29 says "The Commissioners appointed by act of parliament, under the convention with the United States of America, have given notice, that in estimating under the convention the loss sustained by claimants, they will in no case allow compound interest, for the time subsequent to the period wherein lawful impediments had existed, it might reasonably be held that such claimants would have recovered their debts.

House of Representatives.

FRIDAY, Feb. 17, 1804.

Dr. Leib, From the committee appointed on that subject reported a bill more effectually to secure the independence of the judges of the courts of the United States.

Referred to a committee of the whole House on Monday next.

Mr. Claiborne, from the committee appointed to bring in a bill making further provision for extinguishing debts due from the United States reported a bill.

Referred to a committee of the whole on Monday.

On motion of Mr. Dana, the Committee of Commerce and Manufactures were instructed to enquire into the expediency of amending the several acts fixing the compensations of officers of the customs.

Dr. Mitchill presented a memorial from sundry owners of unregistered vessels in the city of New York, praying that vessels originally of foreign construction, but rebuilt two thirds within the United States, and vessels originally built within the "Fredish" territories, and having since lost their registers, may be employed in the Whale and Seal fisheries, subject to no higher duties or tonnage than are paid on vessels duly registered and recorded when employed in like manner; provided such vessels are wholly owned by citizens of the United States; the petition states that the number of such vessels, now destitute of registers, and sailing only under sea-letters is very great, and the number likely to encrease; and urges the utility of employing them in the fisheries, using the ordinary rate of duties, as an equivalent for bounty and a capital encouragement of those useful branches of business.

Referred to the committee on fostering and encouraging the fisheries.

A message was received from the President of the United States, by Mr. Harvie, his secretary, giving certain information respecting the situation of the lands of the United States in the vicinity of Detroit.

Referred to the committee appointed to enquire into the expediency of amending the several acts respecting the sale of public lands.

Mr. Nicholson reported a bill supplementary to the act providing for a navy peace establishment.

The bill provides for the appointment of sundry agents to superintend the ships laid up in ordinary.

Referred to a committee of the whole on Monday.

Mr. Nicholson made a report on the petition of ———— Marsteller, &c— praying for divorces—The report states that the committee have not thought it necessary to enquire into the merits of the individual cases, under the conviction that a general power to grant divorces should be vested in some tribunal. For this purpose the report concludes with a resolution to invest the circuit court with power to allow divorces.

Resolution agreed to—Ayes 75—and referred to a select committee to bring in a bill.

Mr. Rodney, to whom was referred a memorial from W. H. Harrison, President of the convention of the Indiana territory, and other memorials, made a report.

Referred to a committee of the whole on Monday.

An engrossed bill to amend the charter of Alexandria was read the third time, and passed—Ayes 79.

Previously to its passage Mr. Sloan spoke against it, principally on account of the restriction of the right of suffrage to freeholders.

The House resumed the consideration of the unfinished business of yesterday, viz. "what day should be made the order to the committee of the whole to consider *the bill laying a TAX of ten dollars upon every SLAVE IMPORTED into the United States."*

Mr. Lowndes moved that the further consideration of the bill should be postponed till the first Monday in December.

On this motion a long debate ensued, which did not terminate till near five o'clock.

It was supported by Messrs. Lowndes, Huger, R. Griswold, Gregg, Alston, Holland, Rodney and Sandford; and opposed by Messrs. Findley, Sloan, Conrad, Smilie, Lucas, Eppes, Jackson, S. L. Mitchill, Elmer, Stanton, and Bedinger; when the Yeas and Nays, being required, were Yeas 55—Nays 60.

A question was then taken on a postponement to the first Monday in May—Lost, Ayes 42—Noes 59.

Mr. Findley moved a postponement to the 2nd Monday in March:—which motion after some debate, prevailed—Ayes 56—Noes 50.

[To prevent an erroneous impression being made on the public by the above proceedings, it is proper to remark that, during the whole discussion, not a single voice was raised in defence of the act of the legislature of South Carolina allowing the importation of slaves; but that, on the contrary, while by some of the speakers its immorality and impolicy were severely censured, by all its existence was deprecated. A large number of those who voted for the postponement, advocated it on the express and sole ground that it would give the legislature of South Carolina an opportunity, which they believed would be embraced, to repeal the act.]

SATURDAY, February 18.

Mr. Eppes offered the following resolution:—

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to enquire whether the monies drawn from the treasury of the United States on account of the marine corps from the year 1798 to the end of the year 1803 have been faithfully applied to the public service in conformity to existing laws, which was immediately taken up, agreed to, and referred to Messrs. Eppes, Sands, M'Creery, Leib, and Boyle.

On motion of Doctor Leib the committee of Ways and Means were instructed to enquire into the expediency of abolishing the office of lieutenant colonel commandant of the marine corps.

Mr. Moore offered a resolution, instructing the committee of Commerce & Manufactures to enquire into the expediency of authorising the President of the United States to employ persons to explore such parts of the province of Louisiana, as he may think proper, and to report their opinion thereupon to the House.

Mr. Moore said it was scarcely necessary to make any remarks on the object of this resolution. The government were not in possession of a good geographical description of Louisiana which it was very desirable that they should possess; inasmuch as its limits were not completely designated in the articles of cession; and as the time might not, perhaps, be distant, when its boundaries may be a subject of negociation between the former owners of the province and the United States.

The resolution was agreed to—Ayes 53.

Dr. Mitchill, from the committee of Commerce and Manufactures, made a report on the subject of laying duties for the support of light houses.

The report is accompanied with several documents, and concludes with a resolution that a duty of 40 cents a ton be laid on foreign vessels entering the ports of the United States for the support of light houses.

The House took up the report of the committee of the whole on the bill making provision for persons disabled by known wounds received during the revolutionary war.

After several amendments being made, which we will state in our next, the further consideration of the bill was postponed to Tuesday next.

A message was received from the Senate stating that they had passed a bill relating to the recording and registering vessels in the district of New-Orleans.

The bill allows all the inhabitants of Louisiana on the 30th of April last to obtain registers.

Referred to a committee of the whole on Monday.

NEW-YORK, February 14.

Capt. Pierce, of the ship Andromache from Amsterdam, inform us, that he left the Texel on the 4th December, at which the most active preparations were continued in Holland for the projected invasion. The Batavian Republic had been ordered to furnish 12,000 men as its quota, and a draft of that number was accordingly made about the 30 November.

He adds, that the French Government had hired many Dutch vessels, at a certain sum per ton, and a gratuity in proportion to the plunder, to transport the troops to England. Vessels pressed into the service were to receive no gratuity.

A report prevailed in Amsterdam that the Brest fleet, with 250 transports, had sailed on a secret expedition.

Captain Sharp, who arrived at this port yesterday from Naples, informs that 30,000 French troops were in the northern part of that kingdom at the time of his departure; and that the British men of war at Gibraltar, was in readiness to carry off the English merchants and their property in case this army should advance further into the interior.

COAL FOR SALE,

By the subscriber at his yard adjoining the Store of Quin & Fitzgerald, F street.

JOHN DAVIDSON.

Washington, Feb. 17—3t

FOR SALE BY AUCTION.

ON Thursday the 1st day of March next will be sold for cash by public auction on the premises, all the lumber on the wharf situate on the Eastern Branch, formerly known as Redmond and Garret Barry's wharf

Feb. 20—3t

Fresh Garden Seeds, &c.

THEODORE HOLT respectfully acquaints his friends and the public, that he has received a supply of fresh Garden seeds. &c. from London, and for sale at his nursary garden, Eastern Branch, near the bridge—consisting of,

Peas & beans of various sorts,	Early Turnip,
	Large Norfolk do.
Early York cabbage,	Hamburg Parsley,
—— Battersea do.	Double do.
—— Sugarloaf do.	Spinnage, Carrot,
—— Anjou do.	Parsnip Lettice,
Late Drumhead do.	White asparagus, with many others.
Green Savoy do.	
Yellow do. do.	*Grass Seeds.*
Red Pickling do.	Burnett,
Early and late Cauliflower,	Lucern,
	Trefoil,
Brocoli sorts,	St. Foin,
Scotch Kail,	White Clover.
Tripoli Onion,	Bird Seeds,
Spanish do.	Garden Hoes, various sizes,
White pickling do.	
Early Frame Radish,	Dutch Hoes, do. do.
—— Scarlet do.	Iron Rakes. do. do.
Summer do.	Garden Sheers,
White Turnip do.	Garden Reels & Lines
Early Frame Cucumber,	Pruning Knives,
	Flour Seeds, Roots,
—— Cluster, do.	Pots, &c.
Long Green do.	

Also a collection of Fruit Trees. Flowering Shrubs, Poplars, Asparagras Roots, &c &c.

N. B. An assortment of the Garden Seeds are for sale at Mr. R. Eno's George-town.

February 1.—2awtf.